

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. IX, No. 7, July, 1911

From Some Editorial Notes:

The American Medical Association Meeting.—As the annual meeting of the American Medical Association convenes [in Los Angeles] the day this number of the *Journal* goes to press, it is not possible to publish any matter relative to the meeting in this issue. At the time of writing, however, there is every prospect that the meeting will be largely attended, and that the California members will be there in considerable numbers. . . .

† † †

Salvarsan: New Indications.—With the increasing use of salvarsan, we now find scattered through the literature many reports of cases where various sorts of disturbances and even deaths have followed its injection. These reports might lead to an exaggerated fear of this, our most effective antisyphilitic drug, were they not subjected to most careful analysis and study. . . .

† † †

The California Association of Medical Milk Commissions.—For two years there has been held in connection with the meeting of the State Society, and at the invitation and expense of the San Francisco commission, a meeting devoted to the consideration of a pure milk supply. . . . Accordingly, there was formed at Santa Barbara the California Association of Medical Milk Commissions. The association is composed of the milk commissions of the county medical societies, and its purpose is to promote the use of certified milk and to assist in raising the general milk supply to a higher standard by dispensing literature on this subject, by illustrated lectures, by public meetings, and by personal work among the profession, the laity, and the dairymen. . . .

From an article on "The Experimental Basis of Vaccine Therapy" by Frederick P. Gay, M. D., University of California, Berkeley.

It would be rash indeed to attempt to outline the potential value of vaccine therapy, but one may sketch very clearly the historical path that has led to our present method of treating bacterial infections by injecting killed cultures of bacteria. When we later come to consider the rationale of this latest aspect of immunization, that is immunization employed as a therapeutic measure, we shall find ourselves stopping short of ultimate explanation, embarrassed not at any failure of the laboratory worker to respond to clinical demand, but by the fact that practice has outstripped theory, and not, it is to be feared, to the ultimate benefit of practice itself. . . .

From an article on "The Indications, Technique, and Results in Decompressive Operations on the Brain," by Wallace I. Terry, M. D., San Francisco.

The idea of trephining the skull for the relief of increased intracranial pressure is an old one—indeed, it is possible that the crude openings in the skulls of some prehistoric individuals were made for the purpose of relieving persistent headache due to tumor. The credit of advocating decompressive trephining for tumors of the brain which were not removable or could not be located is due to Horsley, although others had previously reported cases where such operations had been done. It was not, however, until Harvey Cushing, basing his ideas largely upon his experimental work on cerebral compression, empha-

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, Page 17)

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Three swift raids on suspected Los Angeles, Hollywood, and Long Beach headquarters of a coast-wide illegal operation ring, extending from Seattle to San Diego, form the latest developments today in local investigation of the Syndicate's activities. More than a truckload of instruments and equipment valued at \$150,000 were confiscated at the apparently hurriedly vacated offices. . . . All offices were under the name of 'Dr. George E. Watts,' police declared. Rolls of currency were found in the Los Angeles office, indicating it had been hurriedly vacated. Evidence of the nature of the business was found in the presence of more than fifty pieces of jewelry, apparently paid by women patients in lieu of cash. . . ." (Los Angeles *Evening News*, June 6, 1936.)

"The Federal Government yesterday stepped into the investigation of the alleged state-wide criminal operation syndicate, uncovered here last week. A representative of the Intelligence Unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue called on Captain of Inspectors Charles Dullea, seeking all information police have gathered on the ring. . . . Three persons have been arrested here already, with warrants out for two others. Those under arrest are R. L. Rankin, alleged 'brain' of the syndicate; Sarah Lee, secretary to Dr. J. C. Ross; and J. C. Perry, Rankin's brother-in-law and local manager. Warrants are out for Doctor Ross and Dr. James Beggs, alleged to have been the Oakland surgeon for the ring. . . ." (San Francisco *Examiner*, June 7, 1936.)

"Correspondence, surgical instruments, and papers of Dr. Lawrence J. Giubbini (licensed chiropractor) wanted in connection with an alleged illegal operation ring, were seized here today by San Francisco and local police. . . . An Internal Revenue agent went with the officers seeking information in connection with income tax reports of Doctor Giubbini and his partner. . . ." (Associated Press dispatch, dated San Jose, and printed in the San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*, June 18, 1936.)

"Blanket felony indictments of thirty-one men and women, said to be members of a coast-wide illegal operation ring, were returned yesterday by the grand jury in Superior Judge Elmer E. Robinson's court. . . . Bail for R. L. Rankin, asserted ringleader of the group, and three other alleged principals—G. E. Watts, J. A. Creeth, and J. O. Shinn—were set at \$5,000. Bail of Marvin Raithel, under arrest, and a witness at the grand jury hearing on June 10, was fixed at \$500. The women's bail was set at \$500, and the other doctors involved had bail fixed at \$2,500. Besides Raithel and the four alleged leaders, the following were indicted: Valentine St. John, M. D., W. Norman Powers, M. D., Harry L. Houston, M. D., E. T. Pattee, M. D., James Beggs, M. D., J. C. Ross, M. D., L. J. Giubbini, D. C., G. B. Smith, M. D., Paul Robert de Gaston, William Byrne, Violet I. Rankin, J. C. Perry, Violet Pellegrini, Leola Habel, Ruth Hanson, Viola Warner, Laura Miner, Nedra Arden, Josephine Follet, Grace Cole, Bessie McCarthy, Lillian Wilson, Zora McEwen, Beatrice Bole, Mary Wilson, and Gladys Korf. . . ." (San Francisco *Examiner*, June 19, 1936.)

"Police carted two truckloads of evidence, assertedly bearing on operations of a supposed state-wide physicians'

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, Page 18)